Estimates of wheat and rice production

†14. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of foodgrains is likely to increase in the current year;

(b) if so, the assessment made with regard to the production of wheat and rice in the current year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that more land has been brought under foodgrains cultivation in the current year and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per the 1st Advance Estimates for 2005-06, the Kharif foodgrains production is estimated at 105.25 million tonnes which is about 2 million tonnes more than the kharif foodgrains production of 103.32 million tonnes for 2004-05 (4th Advance Estimates). The production of kharif rice is estimated at 73.83 million tonnes during 2005-06 as compared to 71.67 million tonnes during 2004-05. No estimates are available for wheat production and other rabi crops during 2005-06 as of now. However, as per the reports received from the States, as on 13.02.2006 the area under wheat this year is 265.47 lakh hectares as against 263.84 lakh hectares last year. Thus there is likely to be increase in wheat production this year as compared to last year if weather conditions remain favourable.

(c) The area under kharif foodgrains during 2005-06 (1st Advance Estimates) is estimated at 70.12 million hectares as compared to 70.84 million hectares during 2004-05 (4th Advance Estimates). As per the reports received from the States, as on 13.02.2006 the area under rabi foodgrains this year is 490.34 lakh hectares as against 477.68 lakh hectares last year.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.